



**Environmental Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2007, 10am-Noon**  
Port of San Diego Administration Building, Training Room  
3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101



**Attendees:**

Chairman Rocky Spane – Port of San Diego  
David Merk – Port of San Diego  
William Hall – Port of San Diego  
Eileen Maher – Port of San Diego  
Leslie Fitzgerald – Port of San Diego  
Allison Gutierrez – Port of San Diego  
Kelly Makley – Port of San Diego  
Marguerite Elicone – Port of San Diego  
Craig Anderson – Solar Turbines (SD PTA)  
Roy Hobbs – Shelter Island Boatyard (SD PTA)  
JT Hesse – U.S. Navy  
Elizabeth Taylor – Daley & Heft

Leo Miras – Environmental Health Coalition  
Georgette Gomez – Environmental Health Coalition  
Megan Johnson – Southern California Wetlands Recovery Program  
Pam Yochem – Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute  
Michelle Woo – AMEC Earth & Environmental  
Nick Buhbe – AMEC Earth & Environmental  
Timothy Hushen – SDSU Research Foundation  
Jennifer Pettis – NOAA Fisheries  
Erica Cunningham – Tierra Data

**I. Agenda Items**

A. **Introductory Remarks:** Committee Chairman Rocky Spane and David Merk welcomed everyone.

B. **Staff Reports and Discussion:**

The Committee was reminded that it is still operating under the current BPC Policy and the Charter remains in effect. An update was given on the consensus previously reached to have commissioners voting on projects and staff presenting the projects to the Board. The new policy will be presented to the Board for their approval in July.

**State of the Bay:**

David Merk informed the group that the projects sponsored by this Committee and its Fund are going to assist the State of the Bay report, and any input provided is always welcome and appreciated.

**Clean Air Plan:**

The Port, as part of its Clean Air Plan, is conducting an air emissions inventory. Options for controlling or eliminating emissions will be obtained from the inventory. Developing a strategy on how to implement emission reduction will be the third step. At the end of the year, the Clean Air Plan will be brought to the Board for approval. It was also explained that the Clean Air Plan is part of the larger Clean Port Plan. The Clean Port Plan will encompass two strategies: the Green Port Plan and the Clean Air Plan.

**Sustainability/LEED Program:**

Allison Gutierrez, Environmental Specialist, presented the Port's sustainable building policy and informed the group that it would be implemented by the end of the year. Sustainable development produces highly efficient and cost effective buildings that reduce the use of natural resources, decrease pollution, and provide a healthier indoor environment. The Port will utilize a rating system called LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a system that was developed and is administered by the US Green Building Council. The LEED system rates new and existing buildings on performance-based credits from six categories, and if existing buildings meet the criteria, they can become certified as well. There are a total of 69 points a project can achieve, and a minimum of 26 points is required to meet certification. Applicants choose the most appropriate methods and technologies for the project. There are four LEED certification levels depending on the number of credits generated: LEED-Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Meetings on this subject are planned

with Port tenants, as well as educational workshops. The concept will be presented to the Board in July.

**Progress on projects funded by the Board on December 5, 2006, and May 8, 2007:**

Eileen Maher provided the following update on projects previously approved: GRANTS: The original five, plus two additional university students, were awarded grants at the May 8th BPC meeting. FISH STRUCTURES: Locations for the fish structures have been selected, permits are pending. TURTLE MONITORING: The turtle tags have been ordered but the delivery date has been delayed until June. A-8 DEBRIS REMOVAL: A grant application was submitted to NOAA for matching funds. We will find out in June if we are awarded a \$42,000 grant. Debris removal would begin in September. J STREET MARSH RESTORATION: This will be done in conjunction with the A-8 debris removal. Anticipate receiving permits in July or August. Work would begin in September. STORMDRAIN MESH FILTERS: The best technology is currently being researched, with a report expected in June. OSPREY NESTS: Two platforms are being installed this week and additional locations are being reviewed. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES: Hybrid vehicles are scheduled to arrive in August or September. The Fund is only paying the cost difference between regular vehicles and hybrids. The remaining amount will be paid with the Port's normal operating budget. The Port's General Service Department is looking into using biodiesel in their lawn mowers. SOLAR PANELS: The Engineering department is reviewing a proposal to install a 15kw system. EDUCATION: The Board has approved contracts with five educational organizations to teach pollution prevention and natural resources to students. RESEARCH & MONITORING: A contract with Tierra Data is being set up to perform the water quality monitoring. ENDANGERED SPECIES: A contract with Chula Vista Nature Center has been set up for a propagation program for the light-footed clapper rail. SUMMARY: The total cost of projects to date is \$740,000. An amount of \$222,000 in matching funds has been acquired. Total funds remaining are \$3,632,000, which includes FY08 funds and excludes matching funds.

**Accounting and Matching Funds:**

The Committee raised questions about the definition of matching funds and if the accounting is being done properly. The Committee would like a definition of what matching funds are and how Finance accounting for the matching funds. The group would also like to know how much the administration of the Committee and its projects is costing the Port.

Note: The Port's Finance Department stated they are accounting for "matching funds" projects from the \$2 million matching fund. Matching funds are defined as any project being funded in equal dollar amounts from an outside source or other funding agency.

**Larger, more expensive projects:**

The Committee again expressed its need for larger, more expensive projects. But how? Ideas are seriously needed and are requested.

**Review and Discussion of Request for Proposals:**

The third round of projects will be discussed at the Environmental Committee meeting in July. To review the third list of projects, please visit the Environmental Services website at: [http://www.portofsandiego.org/sandiego\\_environment/environmental\\_advisory\\_committee.asp](http://www.portofsandiego.org/sandiego_environment/environmental_advisory_committee.asp)

**Coastal Conservancy:**

Environmental Services staff is planning to meet with the Coastal Conservancy in June to discuss money that is available through Prop 40. An update will be provided at the July Committee meeting.

**South Grande Caribe Isle:**

South Grande Caribe Isle and its previous designation as a mitigation bank was discussed. Staff presented three salt marsh design concepts and asked the Committee for its opinion. The type of habitat that could be impacted by a future project would determine the type of habitat this location would be converted to. Based on the INRMP and critical issues, two of the three concepts stood out. These concepts will also be presented to the Coastal Conservancy. Additional ideas are welcome. It was requested that this topic be included on the Committee's July agenda for further discussion.

**501-505 First Street:**

The Committee discussed the issue of the Coronado beach that was built on Port property, against or without permits. Due to erosion of the new beach, a loss of eelgrass beds at this location has been observed. Various agencies have been involved and the Board has taken the issue very seriously. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is taking action against the homeowners.

**Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP):**

The draft Natural Resource Management Plan will be out June 11.

C. **Please note the following 2007 Environmental Committee meeting dates:**

Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at Scripps in La Jolla

Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room

Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room

D. **Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.